BASAHIN SA TAGALOG →

UPDATED 24 OCTOBER 2026

94 PAGES

Lord,

Give Us This Mountain

COMPANION BOOK · IN HIS JOY

KENNETH ENGLE, WITH KEVIN ENGLE

From Lancaster County PA to Malvar Street Baguio City Philippines

Engle · Robson · Leonard · Haines

In His Joy: The Life and Ministry of Ken Engle

Ken Engle's letters, with Kevin Engle's recollections, 1951–1987

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In His Joy

For thirty-six years Ken Engle wrote home to the people who prayed for him. He typed on whatever machine he had, kept a carbon, and nearly every time he ended the same way: **In HIS joy.** About twenty years ago Kevin and Gordon had the carbons scanned. There are 509 pages, from the 1940s to 1987, most of them addressed to the elders and the "Dear Ones at Woodside," Woodside Bible Chapel in Maywood, Illinois, the assembly that stood behind him all his life.

This book tells Dad's story from those letters, in his own order, year by year. Where the story goes beyond the letters, it comes from Kevin Engle's own memories and recollections of his father. The other volumes of this series tell the war years, the courtship, the house on Malvar Street, Evelyn and Rudy. This one tells the work: what he did, where, with whom, and what verse he was leaning on when he did it.

Almost every letter opens with a verse. Those verses are kept here with their references, the way he wrote them.

Wherever Dad's letters mention **Kevin** or **Karen**, the page says so. Both of them are serving in the Philippines today, and these letters show where that began.

> We proclaim Christ! We warn everyone we meet, and we teach everyone we can, all that we know about Him, so that, if possible, we may bring every man up to his full maturity in Christ Jesus.
>
> Colossians 1:28 (Phillips), at the head of Ken's letter of 10 October 1969

That verse hung on the wall of every office he ever had. *"It is a joy to be in the same type of work as he was doing in the first century,"* he wrote under it, *"…proclaiming, teaching, training."*

From Ken's letter to Woodside, 10 October 1969, and Kevin's memories.

The Plaque on Dad's Wall

Kevin with his Philippines mug, beneath the plaque that hung in every office Dad ever had (Colossians 1:28, "We proclaim Christ"), beside Dad's photo from his memorial service. The work goes on.

Kevin Engle's collection

The Beloved Physician

On the Engle farm near Abilene, Kansas, the radio ran off a car battery. In the early 1930s a boy named Ken sat beside it and listened to a voice from Kansas City: Dr. Walter L. Wilson, known as "the beloved physician." From 1926 to 1935 Dr. Wilson gave a Bible message every day over WDAF, Kansas City.

Ken was saved at about nine years old, through John 6:37: *"Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out"* (see A Farm Boy and a Radio). Years later, in his copy of Dr. Wilson's biography, Dad wrote that he was "possibly led to the LORD thru Dr. Walter Wilson's ministry" (see the next pages).

Walter Lewis Wilson (1881–1969) was saved in Kansas City in December 1896 and began preaching on its street corners the next year. He studied medicine at Northwestern University, took his M.D. from the University of Kansas in 1904, and practiced in Kansas City. He preached at Central Bible Hall for many years, helped found the Kansas City Bible Institute in 1932 (later Kansas City Bible College, now Calvary Bible College), and filled his books with the people he met on his rounds: *The Romance of a Doctor's Visits*, *Miracles in a Doctor's Life* and *Dr. Wilson's Stories of Soul-Winning*.

From Kevin Engle's memories of his father. Dr. Wilson's life from Wholesome Words and the Brethren Archive.

Tents for the Gospel

Dr. Wilson was also the doctor for the Baker Lockwood Manufacturing Company of Kansas City, makers of large tents and awnings. From 1912 to 1920 he was its general manager, and from 1926 to 1928 its president.

As Kevin has always heard the story, the company came through the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 and moved its works to Kansas City, and Walter Wilson married the owner's daughter. Its tents went up all over the country, wherever evangelists set up their meetings to preach the gospel: the same gospel that reached a farm boy in Kansas, on a radio that ran off a car battery.

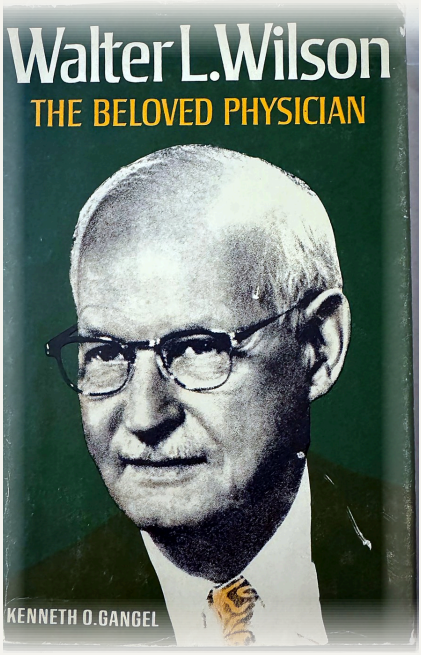
Hear Dr. Wilson

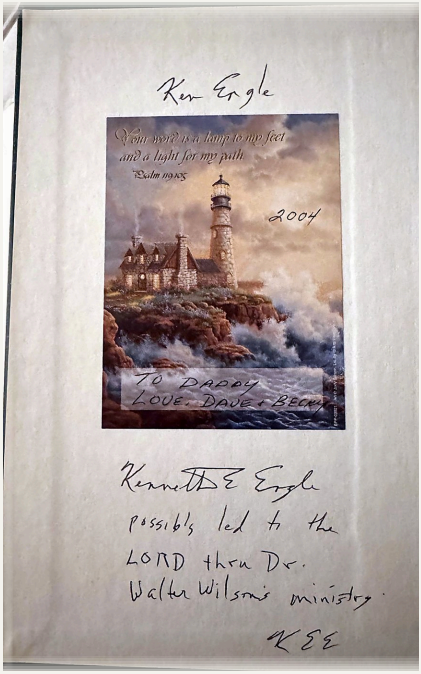
- ▸ 5 Miracles in John 3:16
- ▸ How to Study the Bible
- ▸ Love of God
- ▸ A Sure Thing
- ▸ We Shall Be Like Him

All 26 of his messages →

Messages from Voices for Christ. Each opens in its own window as a player.

Dad's Copy of the Book





Dad's copy of Kenneth O. Gangel's Walter L. Wilson: The Beloved Physician, a gift from Dave and Becky in 2004 ("To Daddy, Love, Dave & Becky"). Under the card, in his own hand: "Kenneth E Engle possibly led to the LORD thru Dr. Walter Wilson's ministry. KEE." The book tells of a boy selling bark and roots on the streets of a small Arkansas town who grew up to be a doctor, a businessman and the co-founder of what is now Calvary Bible College.

Kevin Engle's collection

The Prayer Meeting at Moody

1949 or 1950

When Dad was a student at Moody Bible Institute, he belonged to a prayer group that met to pray for China. That burden went back to his first year at Moody, when Harry Liu, a Chinese student, led a prayer meeting for China (see A Missionary from China). At the same time he had been writing back and forth with Cyril Brooks in the Philippines, and he was praying about whether the Lord wanted him there.

One night Dad asked some of the other Moody students to join him for an all-night prayer meeting. They prayed through until morning.

The next morning Dad went to his mailbox. Inside was a letter from Cyril Brooks, inviting him to come to the Philippines as a missionary. That letter had been on a ship for thirty days. It reached him the very morning after he had spent the night asking God for direction.

God had sent the answer a month before Dad finished asking for it.

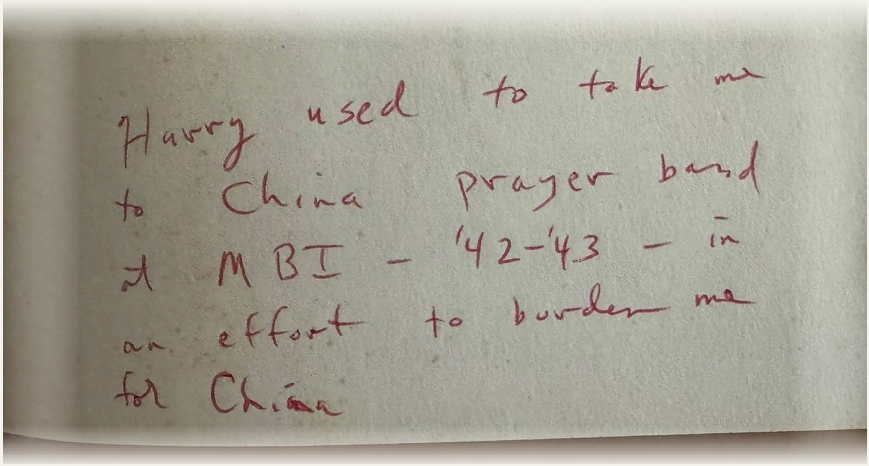
"And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."

Isaiah 65:24

From Kevin Engle's recollections

▶ Hear Dad Brooks

The China Prayer Band



Dad's own note in red ink, written in his copy of Chinaman's Chance: "Harry used to take me to China prayer band at MBI – '42–'43 – in an effort to burden me for China." It was at Moody Bible Institute that Harry Liu first laid China on Ken's heart. Harry's 1944 letter to Ken is in Volume Two.

Kevin Engle's collection · *Chinaman's Chance* © 1956 by The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago

PART ONE

The Manila Years

1951–1967 · San Juan · the Bible School of the Air · Binangonan

UPDATED 24 OCTOBER 2026

Thirty-Six Years Ago Today

On 17 March 1987, a retired missionary in Kansas sat down to write the folks at Woodside and started with a date.

> It was 36 years ago today that I began my missionary work in the Philippines. It was a Saturday and St. Patrick's Day. A launch brought me in from the freighter which was anchored in Manila Bay. I had boarded the freighter on February 17th in San Francisco at Pier 45. You could say I was very glad to set foot on Philippine soil.
>
> Ken to Woodside, 17 March 1987

Dad on the Manila pier in his sunglasses, twenty-six years old, minutes after the launch brought him in from the California Bear: Saturday 17 March 1951. The whole scene is on the next page.
Kevin Engle's collection

He kept that day all his life. In July 1976 he was reading in the Tagalog Bible the San Juan believers had given him at his welcome, on Mrs. Dayton's lawn. He copied the inscription into a letter: *"…sa pagkakataon ng kanyang pagdating sa San Juan, Marzo 17, 1951"* (on the occasion of his arrival in San Juan, March 17, 1951). *"Yes, 25 years ago,"* he added. *"I treasure this volume and thank the Lord for these 25 years."*

That first year he also spoke at the first servicemen's Bible conference in Manila. *"We had less than a dozen men at that conference,"* he remembered in 1968. Seventeen years later he would stand before 160.

From Ken's letters of 17 March 1987, 22 July 1976 and 30 July 1968.

Ashore in Manila

Dad comes off the launch at the Manila pier, Saturday 17 March 1951: his first day in the Philippines as a missionary.
Kevin Engle's collection

This is the picture the whole story turns on. Dad had been at sea almost a month. He sailed from San Francisco on 18 February 1951 aboard the freighter *California Bear*, her only passenger. The ship took on cargo at Puget Sound, crossed the Pacific, and touched Luzon first at San Fernando on 14 March. Somewhere out on the ocean his radio picked up DZAS, and he heard his own name.

Three days later the freighter lay at anchor in Manila Bay, and a launch brought him in with the cargo you see under the canvas. It was a Saturday, St. Patrick's Day. Cyril and Anna Brooks met him at the pier and took him home to San Juan, where that night he hung a mosquito net in "a nice little room facing west and north." By Monday he was grading lessons for the Bible School of the Air.

Six years before, he had first seen these islands as a B-24 tail gunner. Now, as he told the President of the Philippines in 1972, he came back "not with a gun" but with "the sword of the Spirit," the Bible. Twenty-four years of ministry started on this pier, and he marked the day for the rest of his life.

The Bible School of the Air

Dad came out to work with Cyril and Anna Brooks, and the Brookses had a radio Bible school. In 1959 Ken wrote its history for Emmaus Bible School, whose courses it used.

> Mr. & Mrs. Cyril H. Brooks were used of the Lord to begin the work in 1950. … It began as a "sideline" but has become a very important part of the Philippine work.
>
> Ken to John Smart, Emmaus, 27 May 1959

The first office was one small room under the Brooks house with two desks. By 1959 it had seven desks, 27 courses, *What the Bible Teaches* in seven languages, and 328,799 students enrolled. Filipino staff did most of the grading, on purpose: *"It is our desire that the nationals be prepared to carry on the work fully should we be forced to leave the field."*

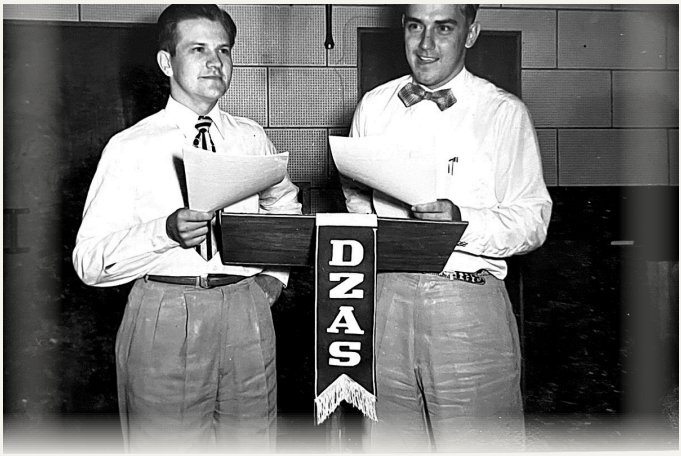
Not every family welcomed the lessons. In 1954 Ken wrote that some students' lessons had to go *"in a special envelope with no indication that it is from the Bible School of the Air,"* because relatives destroyed them. *"Prayer is our best weapon."*

In May 1967 the school marked its seventeenth anniversary and its millionth student, at the Medical Science Hall in Manila. No one could say which student was the millionth, so Dad Brooks gave Bibles to four new ones. Ken gave the history.

From Ken's letters of 1954, 27 May 1959 and 15 May 1967.

Watch on YouTube: Work in the Philippines: Ken and Mary Lou Engle, 1951–1975, by Cyril H. Brooks ↗

On the Air at DZAS



Then and now. *Top: Ken Engle (left) and Ken Brooks, live on the air with "Question Time" at DZAS Manila, the gospel station of the Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC), about 1953. Bottom: the same two friends in 2009, Ken Brooks (left) and Ken Engle, not long before Ken went home to heaven. Hear Ken Brooks: Worthy Is the Lamb ▶ · all his messages.*

Ken read the news on DZAS too. Two months after he landed he stayed overnight at the station and did the 7:30 newscast, his first since leaving WMBI. In early 1955 he read the eight o'clock and noon news. On his last day, 17 February 1955, he wrote: "So thankful for that opportunity to give out the good news."

Kevin Engle's collection

On the Air: Lamentations, February 1958

Bible School of the Air, Manila · 10 February 1958

This is one of Dad's typed scripts for the Bible School of the Air, broadcast in Manila on February 10, 1958, in his own words. In it he takes listeners through the book of Lamentations, from Jeremiah's tears over sin to "Great is thy faithfulness," and closes by asking who will answer the Saviour's call, "So send I you."

Program Four: "I Will Sing the Wondrous Story" · by Ken Engle

Bible School of the Air — Lamentations. Broadcast February 10, 1958.

KEE: Last week we studied about Jeremiah, the weeping Prophet. This week we take up his book of Lamentations. It has been called a poem of pity, a hymn of heartbreak, a psalm of sadness, a symphony of sorrow, a tale of tears and account of agony. Commenting on this book one writer said, "There is nothing like the Lamentations of Jeremiah in the whole world. There has been plenty of sorrow in every land, but such another preacher and author, with such a heart of sorrow, has never again been born." Lamentations is one of those interesting books in the Bible constructed as an acrostic....using the 22 consonants of the Hebrew alphabet. Each chapter is constructed that way except the last one. Why the change? We aren't sure. Possibly it has a reason we have not yet discovered....the Bible is a rich book and we have only begun to find all there is there for us.

The key word in the book is ZION and it's used 15 times to refer to Jerusalem. By the way the city of Jerusalem is mentioned 74 times. And the key verse is the first one in the book...chapter 1 verse 1. "How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people! how is she become as a widow! she that was great among the nations, and princess among the provinces, how is she become tributary!" The book goes on to explain how all of this has taken place. It all goes back to a little three letter word...S-I-N. (sin).

Jeremiah had spoken of this judgment prophetically and now it had come true. We don't find Jeremiah with a proud, "I told you so" attitude...instead he mourned and wept. In chapter 1 verse 16 we read, "For these things I weep; mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water." We live in a day when there is little weeping, little weeping over sin. Sin is thought of as weakness, as a minor detail. If men think lightly of the disease they'll also think lightly of the cure. Jeremiah sought to look at sin the way God looks at it. In verse 18 he confesses "The LORD is righteous, for I have rebelled against his commandment."

Have you ever come to that place where you saw the Lord's righteousness and your own sinfulness? Possibly you have come to that place right now. Why don't you then confess your sins to Him and trust Him as your Saviour. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

In chapter 3 Jeremiah speaks of his dungeon experience. "I called upon thy name, O LORD, out of the low dungeon." In this same chapter we read these words...I wonder if they were not a result of that dungeon experience. "It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion." It's good when we come to that place where we are broken...where we realize as one has put it that it's not our faith but His faithfulness, not our trust, but His trustworthiness. When we say as Jeremiah, "The LORD is my portion," then we have enough. Yes, He is the God who is enough. Is the Lord your portion or are you still trying to find your portion in other things? You'll never be satisfied until you turn to the Lord and make Him your all.

Near the end of the book we read these words, "Thou, O LORD, remainest for ever." So Jeremiah through all his unpopularity and tears always had the Lord. He could say, Great is Thy Faithfulness.

Jeremiah did the work the Lord had for him...yes, it meant the dungeon....people didn't understand him but Jeremiah did the work. God is looking for men, for women like that today.

He wants to send them forth with the message of salvation…some will meet with …, others will be scorned. But let's be like Jeremiah and see beyond…see beyond to the Faithful One….listen to the Saviour's voice as He says "So send I you."

Music: "So Send I You" (Pearce)

Ken Engle's typed script for the Bible School of the Air, broadcast 10 February 1958, from the family files.

Read it in the Faithful Men Library ↗ · **Download the PDF ↗** · **Tagalog PDF ↗**

Where No Evangelist Had Gone

In October 1964, while the Engles were in Illinois, a Filipino co-worker wrote Ken from San Juan about a trip he had just made to Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac.

He had found about thirty believers there, led by a man named Salvador Marcellano. Marcellano had picked up a gospel tract half buried in the mud, then enrolled with his neighbor in the Bible School of the Air courses. The group had grown out of the courses and the radio programs. No missionary had ever visited.

> The Lord can accomplish His work even without any direct or immediate human instrumentality. Here is a place where no evangelist, no pastor or worker has set foot in, and yet the Lord has enabled these people to come to know Him.
>
> letter to Ken from San Juan, 19 October 1964

They sang the songs they had learned over the radio.

Twenty-one years later, in Dallas, it happened again, to Ken's own son. See "Our Missionary in the Pacific."

> There are no comments. But you know the promises that His word will not return unto Him void!
>
> Ken, of his Bible-reading broadcasts, 2 September 1983 (Isaiah 55:11)

From a letter to Ken from San Juan Gospel Chapel, 19 October 1964.

The First Afternoon

The Christian Service Brigade is Rudy Ponce de Leon's story, told in its own book. But Ken kept its birthday. In January 1967 he wrote:

> We had our first meeting at the San Juan Elementary School on February 2nd, 1952.
>
> Ken to Woodside, 27 January 1967

For the fifteenth anniversary there was a field day for the whole battalion and a broadcast on DZAS. *"I will tell the same story on the air that I told that first afternoon fifteen years ago."*

The boys' club was only one of the San Juan works. There was a college group, some first met at camp, who called themselves "The Prayer Fellowship." There was "Youthtime," which in its first year saw *"around 150 who professed salvation or help in regard to assurance."* In 1963 the San Juan young people marked the streets in red on a hand-drawn map and put a tract in every home.

In 1960 an elder named Sofonias Clavecilla wrote from the little chapel in Pasadena, San Juan:

> As an elder of the church here in Pasadena, I salute you as the first missionary who planted the Word of God and the first to arrive in our place … The one you planted bore fruits.
>
> Sofonias Clavecilla to Ken, 24 October 1960

> The things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.
>
> 2 Timothy 2:2

From Ken's letters of 1963 and 27 January 1967, and Bro. Clavecilla's letter of 24 October 1960.

Born in San Juan

Karen. In the spring of 1972, from Kansas, Dad stopped in the middle of a letter to Woodside:

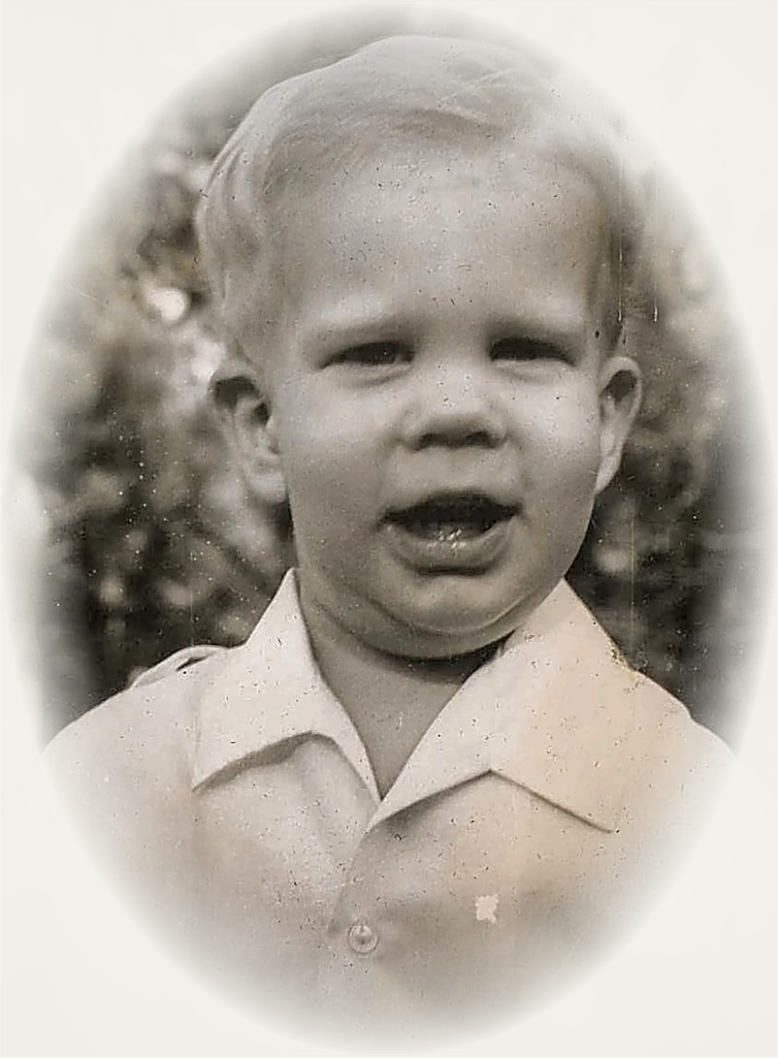
> Karen is celebrating her 17th birthday today. It hardly seems possible that it is 17 years since she arrived and we were living in our first little house in San Juan, Rizal, Philippines.
>
> Ken to Woodside, April 1972

Kevin. In July 1958 Ken sent a photograph of the family with a report of his meetings on Mindanao: *"Kevin is now almost a year old."* Years later he told friends where each child was born: *"Both Stan and Kevin were born in San Juan Hospital, San Juan, Rizal."* Kevin began where the work began.

The family lived in San Juan from 1951 to 1967, near Camp Crame. *"We worked with the youth of the San Juan Gospel Chapel for so many years,"* Ken wrote in 1983.

From Ken's letters of 16 July 1958, April 1972, 7 December 1979 and 7 December 1983.

Kevin at About Three



Kevin, born at San Juan Hospital in 1957, here at about three. He wanted to preach like Dad, and for twenty years he did, as a lay preacher. Kevin thinks it looks as if he had already started. *A Preacher Like Dad* →

Kevin Engle's collection

Two Hundred on the Hillside

San Juan and Rizal province · 1955

By 1955 Ken was going out to the towns of Rizal province on Sundays: Pililla, Tanay and Binangonan, one after the other, often leaving San Juan at six in the morning. In January he spoke in Tanay and Binangonan on Ezekiel 47, the river from the temple that rises from the ankles to the knees and becomes waters to swim in. In February the believers at Binangonan started a little library of about twenty Colportage books.

At home in San Juan the meetings moved outdoors. On Friday 21 January 1955 the public-address system blew a fuse, so Ken went from house to house on foot to tell the children. Jerry started the music at a quarter to seven.

> Only kids here at first. Soon more came. By the time of second film I suppose 200 on hillside.
>
> Ken's journal, 21 January 1955

They showed two short gospel films, *The Prodigal Son* and *The Conversion of Paul*, and Mr. Brooks spoke in Tagalog. Most of them stayed and listened. In March the crowd was larger and "well behaved." There was a film on Paul and the jailer, Ken's own slides, four testimonies, and an invitation from Peter Panis. "Several stayed around to talk."

The films and slides went out to the province too. At Pililla on 5 March the people saw slides of Mr. Ison and of faces they knew. "They cheered." Then came slides of the leper healed and of the man let down through the roof by four friends. "Still praying for decisions." On the night of 3 May they picked up Tato (Fortunato Gonzal) at Binangonan, and out in the province he spoke while the film was shown to a crowd Ken guessed at six hundred. In May and June the films went farther, to Marikina and out to Pampanga, with Jerry and with Eugenio Tique, a Pampangan who could preach in the people's own language.

At one town "I suppose whole town came out." At another they began right after the basketball game.

On 30 April a team went out to Pililla and passed out about a thousand tracts in one day.

There were other open doors. On Sunday evenings Ken took young men from San Juan to Bilibid Prison. On 27 March he showed slides there, and thirteen prisoners enrolled in the Bible School of the Air. "Glad the boys could attend."

On 19 June 1955 there was a baptism at Binangonan.

> `Baptism down by lake. … Spoke to them first. Very nice setting and spirit.`
>
> Ken's journal, 19 June 1955

Ken went out to Pililla, Tanay and Binangonan for the last time that term on 28 August 1955. After the furlough his provincial work would center on Binangonan for ten years. The story goes on in the next chapter.

> *For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*
>
> Habakkuk 2:14

Sources: Ken Engle's journal, 2 January – 28 August 1955.

Binangonan

From 1957 to 1967 Ken's provincial work centered on **Binangonan**, a fishing town on Laguna de Bay. *"It was a thrill for us to see what the LORD has done there just since 1956 when they began,"* he wrote in 1968.

The believers built a new chapel in 1960. In the hot season of 1963 there were open-air meetings in a temporary shelter on a vacant lot in the fishing quarter, far from the chapel.

> "Then Caleb calmed the people." … It reminds me of what people around Galilee might have been like. … In this area we are seeking to be fishers of men.
>
> Ken to Beachwood Chapel, 2 April 1963 (Numbers 13:30, Berkeley)

That June, Binangonan held the first workers' conference it had ever had: more than fifty Sunday School teachers, elders, Brigade leaders and children's-class teachers. On 28 August 1966 the Binangonan believers opened a new work at **Taytay**, with Eugenio Tique, the elder and carpenter who built missionary homes and nearly built Faith Academy.

In April 1968 Ken baptized four in the lake while fishermen watched from their boats. One was Narciso Aguinaldo, a bulldozer operator at the cement plant. A shoe repairman gave him a tract, he mailed in the coupon, and a believer came to visit.

From Ken's letters of 1963, 29 August 1966, 20 March 1968 and 19 April 1968.

Eleven in the Lake

Kevin. On the last Lord's Day before the family left for America in July 1963, Ken baptized eleven young people at Binangonan. He took two of his children along, and one of them was Kevin, not quite six.

> We had the joy of seeing 11 young people baptized in Binangonan last Lord's Day. When I say we I mean that Becky and Kevin went along. … They had a farewell meal at noon. It will be hard to leave these folks.
>
> Ken to Woodside, 25 July 1963

The family was going home because Mary Lou was ill. That same week a large gift for the trip came from Woodside, and Ken got the news at his desk at the Bible School of the Air. *"Right then I thanked Him."*

> We have had so much sunshine surely we should not fear the clouds.
>
> the same letter

Ten years later, in September 1973, the family was back at Binangonan for "Family Sunday." Sixteen were baptized.

From Ken's letters of 25 July 1963 and about October 1973.

A Billboard, Large and Clear

> And the Lord said to me, "Write my answer on a billboard, large and clear, so that anyone can read it at a glance and rush to tell the others."
>
> Habakkuk 2:2 (Living Prophecies), at the head of Ken's letter of 3 March 1966

Ken had seen the Michigan brethren's gospel signs in 1963 and 1964. Driving west from Illinois in November 1965, he counted only six gospel billboards between Illinois and California. Back in Manila, Christ for Greater Manila put him in charge of its sign work.

> A gospel sign in a good location preaches 24 hours a day. … It can speak in any language.
>
> Ken, "A Billboard … Large and Clear," 1966

The first board went up on Rizal Avenue: *"I AM THE WAY…"* (John 14:6). A John 3:16 board was bulldozed and stolen, and later turned up as part of someone's roof. They got it back, repainted it and put it up again. The first Tagalog signboard went up in January 1967 with Acts 16:31. In July 1967 a double sign at Binangonan *"points in two directions. By means of the Tagalog verse, it points people to heaven. Then the arrow directs them to the Chapel."*

In December 1967 a sign ten feet by twenty-four went up on the main highway up the mountain to Baguio. Sammy, the Christian artist who painted it, rode beside it all the way. The landowner gave permission from his horse-drawn *karitela*.

> JESUS SAID, "COME UNTO ME…I WILL GIVE YOU REST."
> "ACQUAINT NOW THYSELF WITH HIM AND BE AT PEACE."
>
> the sign (Matthew 11:28; Job 22:21)

From Ken's letters and his article on gospel signs, 1966–68.

Cloudy Days

The years from 1963 to 1965 were hard ones. Mary Lou was ill, and the doctors sent her home for care. The elders at Woodside wrote, *"We are prepared to stand behind you completely in this problem."*

So Ken taught. From 9 September 1963 he was on the faculty of **Emmaus Bible School** in Oak Park, Illinois, invited by its president, William MacDonald, in both the freshman and the upper classes. In August 1965 WMBI put him back on the air for four evening messages. *"It was a thrill to do a little microphone work again,"* he wrote to Rudy.

> I THE LORD HAVE CALLED THEE IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND WILL KEEP THEE. I have seen the Lord do this for 15 years.
>
> Ken to Rudy Ponce de Leon, 13 August 1965 (Isaiah 42:6)

In December 1965 the doctor gave his approval, and the whole family flew back to Manila. A year later Ken looked back:

> It was just a year ago today that our plane touched down at Manila International Air Port … It has been a good year. However, it has not been a year of all sunshine. There have been cloudy days … it is good to know that "back of the clouds the sun is always shining."
>
> Ken to Woodside, December 1966

In 1966 he began his own program on DZAS, **Living Letters**: fifteen minutes of the New Testament read aloud with music, starting in First Corinthians.

From the Emmaus Bible School newsletter, autumn 1963, and Ken's letters of 1963–66.

A New Mission

Kevin. On 5 September 1965, just before the family went back to the Philippines from furlough, Kevin was saved at Woodside Bible Chapel in Maywood, Illinois, the assembly that stood behind Dad all his life. Mrs. Wallace Logan, a missionary to Africa, led him to the Lord. From that day he had a new mission.

Kevin, about eight, at the reins of a calesa in the Philippines, taken shortly after he was saved on 5 September 1965: a boy with a new mission. That mission goes on today, taking the gospel to the Philippines on digital Bibles through keepm.org, and Kevin is getting ready to go back for the first time since 1993.

`Kevin Engle's collection and Kevin's memories`

PART TWO

Give Us This Mountain

1967–1975 · Baguio · Kansas · and back

UPDATED 12 OCTOBER 2026

A Whole New Mission Field

Volume Three tells how the family came to 55 Malvar. Three months after the move, Ken wrote to Countryside Bible Chapel near Boston, the people who had sent him a gift for radio:

> We have been given a whole new mission field with great new opportunities.
>
> Ken to Countryside Bible Chapel, 7 September 1967

DZAS could not be heard in Baguio; another station blocked it. So Ken started a program of his own. **Moments of Melody** went on the air on **1 October 1967**, at six in the morning, over **DZBS**, Baguio's commercial station: five minutes of a gospel song, a short thought and a reading from Scripture, *"to help you start your day and help you think beyond today."* For his Catholic listeners he read from the Knox Bible.

Then the program spread, and he had not asked for any of it.

> MOMENTS OF MELODY is heard daily on seven stations throughout the Philippines. Surely this is of the LORD. I did not ask one of these stations to carry the program.
>
> Ken, spring 1968

There were 250 programs on seven stations in April 1968, and 320 on ten by that September. By October 1969 there were 460 programs on seventeen stations, from Baguio to Mindanao, and KSAB on Okinawa. On Holy Thursday 1969 the two Baguio stations played the special crucifixion series every half hour. The chaplain of the USS *Tripoli* used it at sunrise prayers.

From Ken's letters of 7 September and 9 October 1967, 19 April and 16 September 1968, and 4 April and 10 October 1969.

My Boys Help Me

> For it is God who is at work within you, giving you the will and the power to achieve His purpose.
>
> Philippians 2:13, at the head of Ken's letter of 14 July 1981

The children's program came first. On 2 September 1967 Ken was sponsoring the *Children's Bible Hour* from Grand Rapids on DZBS, with sixty seconds at the end for a Baguio address. The children wrote in by the hundreds.

Kevin. About 1970 Ken described the program for his supporters:

> However, we add local announcements and the children write to us here. My boys, Kevin and Stanley, help me with the program.
>
> Ken, "Radio Philippines," about 1970

Kevin was about twelve. By 1974 he was working in his father's studio himself. See "Gospel Dimensions."

Mary Lou and Ken sponsored the *Children's Bible Hour* from 1967 for as long as they lived in the Philippines and long after. Lino Aragon of Binangonan answered the letters. They came from the Philippines, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Malaysia, and from Vietnam and Cambodia *"until those countries fell."*

From Ken's letters of about 1970, 12 June 1975 and 29 March 1979.

Kevin at the Microphone

“Dad had me doing radio early!” Kevin, about eleven, on the air at DZBS/DZAH on Harrison Road, Baguio City, in 1968. Rudy Aguilar, the station’s sound engineer and manager, was on the other side of the glass, just out of sight; the lady working sound with him can be seen through it.
Kevin Engle’s collection

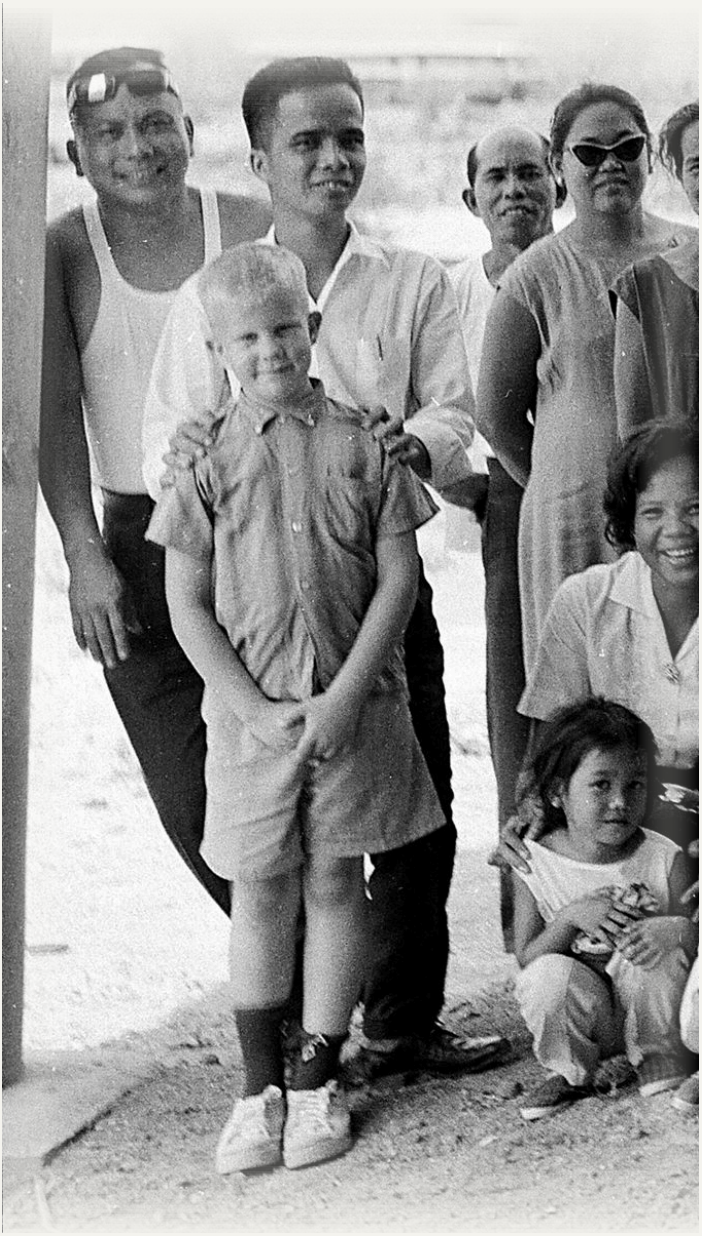
Lino Aragon of Binangonan

Elino Aragon, Lino to everyone who knew him, grew up in the assembly at Binangonan, the lakeside town where Dad gave so much of his provincial work. He went to Sunday School as a boy and knew the way of salvation by heart. But it was at a Bible camp in his early teens, studying First John, that his faith became his own. A verse about loving your brother stopped him, because he was always quarreling with his older brother. He went to the speaker, rededicated his life to the Lord, and went home determined to treat his brother differently. Years later he called that verse "the turning point in my Christian life."

By March 1966 Lino was bringing others. When six were baptized in the lake at Binangonan that month, with eight-year-old Kevin watching, Dad wrote that a young man named Lino had helped five of them, and two were his own mother and sister.

Lino's words are from Cyril Brooks, Grace Triumphant, chapter 24, "Camp Work." © 1985 Walterick Publishers. The 1966 baptism is from Ken's letter of 24 March 1966.

Kevin and Lino, 1966



Kevin, eight, with Lino's hands on his shoulders, at the Binangonan baptism of March 1966. See "Heaven Came Down."

Kevin Engle's collection

The Children's Letters

When the family went back to the Philippines, Lino became one of Dad's right hands. From at least 1971 he answered the letters that poured in for the *Children's Bible Hour*, which Ken and Mary Lou sponsored. Lino and his wife, Cora, typed the replies at home and sent out literature. Dad officiated at Lino and Cora's wedding. The letters came from all over the Philippines, and from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Vietnam and Cambodia.

> `I am sure there will be many children in heaven that heard the message on that program.`
>
> Ken, sending support for Lino's work, 2 February 1973

Lino helped Dad produce his broadcasts, and in 1974 he carried Dad's tapes from the Bible School office in San Juan to the stations. "Lino is doing a good job," Dad wrote that September. "He brought ten more songbooks."

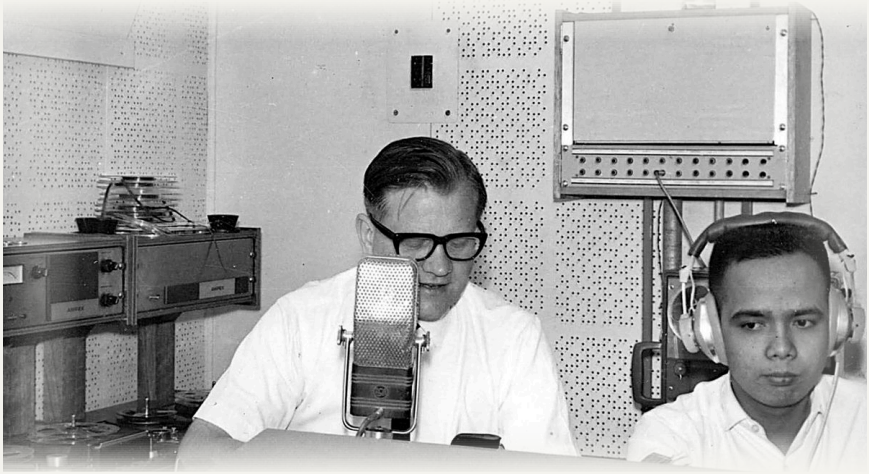
> **Kevin.** Lino was one of the three key young men Dad counted on, with Eliseo Co and Nanding Gonzal.

From Ken's letters of 1971–1976 and his 1976 prayer letter.

Lino and Cora's Wedding

Lino and Cora on their wedding day, with their wedding party. Dad officiated. The banner behind them reads, "Each for the other, both for the Lord."
Kevin Engle's collection

Dad and Lino at DZAS



Dad and Lino in the DZAS studio of the Far East Broadcasting Company, mastering new programs.
Kevin Engle's collection

In the Studio, about 1968

Dad and Lino in the studio, about 1968. Lino helped Dad produce his broadcasts.
Kevin Engle's collection

Lino at the Reel-to-Reel

Lino at work on one of the studio's Ampex reel-to-reel machines.
Kevin Engle's collection

Tato and Lino at 55 Malvar

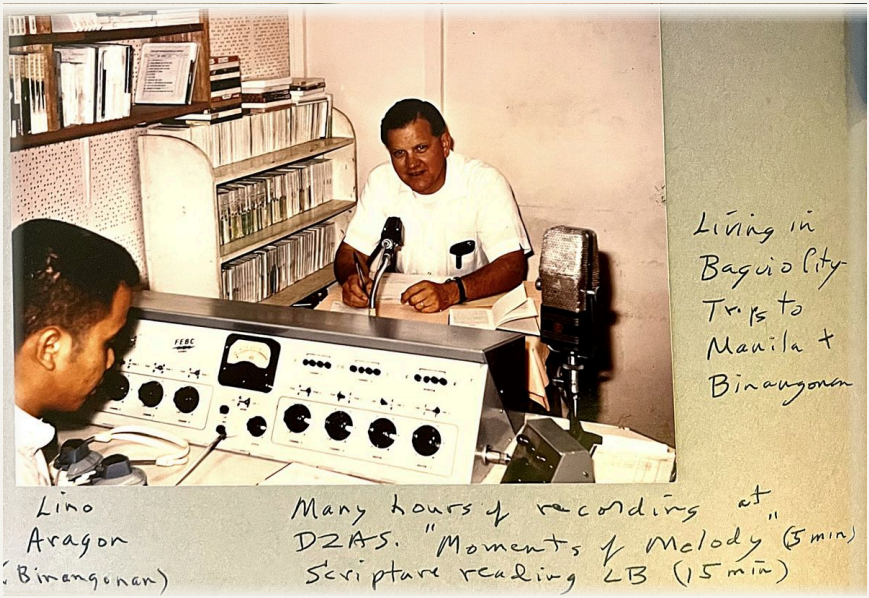
Tato and Lino at 55 Malvar, the family home on Aurora Hill, Baguio City. From left: Stanley, Tato (Fortunato Gonzal), Gordon, Lino and Kevin.
Kevin Engle's collection

Tato and Lino

Tato (left) and Lino, two of the faithful men of Binangonan. See also "The Shoeshine Kit and the Kite."

Kevin Engle's collection

From Dad's Album



A page from Dad's own album, in his handwriting: "Lino Aragon (Binangonan)." "Many hours of recording at DZAS. "Moments of Melody" (5 min), Scripture reading LB (15 min)." "Living in Baguio City. Trips to Manila + Binangonan."
Kevin Engle's collection

The Brigade at Binangonan, about 1966

The Boys' Brigade at Binangonan, about 1966. Lino stands at the far left of the back row. Kevin, in front, is holding the trophy.
Kevin Engle's collection

Office Manager and Elder

In 1974, when Glynn and Lela Dean left for the United States, Lino became office manager of the Bible School of the Air. With him the whole office was in Filipino hands. He met with the missionaries' committee on the larger matters, and he kept answering the children's mail. By 1980 he was also the Emmaus regional director for the Philippines.

That same year, 1974, he directed the Christian Training Camp at Dinalupihan in Bataan: 69 campers from 15 churches, and 26 staff. The boy whose life had turned at camp was now running one.

He served as an elder of the Binangonan assembly. When Woodside asked its missionaries what difference their work had made, Dad listed the boys who had come to Christ and gone on to lead. Lino was there: elder in Binangonan and manager of the Bible School of the Air office. See "Only Eternity Will Show".

Whenever Dad came home on furlough and spoke in a church, there were names he always mentioned. Rudy came first. Lino Aragon was always among them.

From Cyril Brooks's 1981 history of the Bible School of the Air, Grace Triumphant, chapter 24, and Ken's letters of 1974–1983.

The Four B's

> Behold, I will do a new thing … I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.
>
> Isaiah 43:19, the verse the Lord gave Ken in January 1967

In January 1968 Ken summed up the year in one line:

> We have often asked prayer for three B's. (Broadcasting, Brigade and Binangonan) Now we add a fourth: Baguio!
>
> Ken, January 1968

Baguio was where the war came on leave. Servicemen on rest and recreation from Viet Nam came up the mountain, and twice a year there was a servicemen's Bible conference. In October 1967 Ken spoke at the thirty-second. In July 1968, at the thirty-fourth, about 160 came, from Viet Nam, Guam, Taiwan, Okinawa, Clark and Cubi Point. Ken taught Philippians every morning at eight. A young Jewish sailor from Guam stood and said he had trusted Jesus *"as His Savior and Messiah."*

> I had the joy of speaking at the first conference in 1951 soon after my arrival in the Philippines. We had less than a dozen men at that conference. This time we had around 160.
>
> Ken to Woodside, 30 July 1968

From Ken's letters of 9 October 1967, January 1968 and 30 July 1968.

Pray That This War Would Be Over

In late 1967 nine men from the cruiser USS *Canberra* came to Bible studies in the Engle home. One of them wrote later from the Gulf of Tonkin.

Kevin. The sailor took a liking to ten-year-old Kevin, *"because he has a son about the same age,"* and wrote to him personally:

> `And do us a favor if you would. Pray that this war would be over soon so we could all go home to our families in the USA.`
>
> a sailor of the USS *Canberra*, in a letter to Kevin, quoted by Ken, 10 January 1968

Under it Ken wrote a prayer:

> `We long that some of these men will come back to fight another war here in the future with the Sword of the Spirit as their weapon.`
>
> Ken to Woodside, 10 January 1968

Eight years later the boy who got that letter came back to Baguio himself as an American sailor and a Christian.

From Ken's letter to Woodside of 10 January 1968.

Except the Lord Build the House

Evelyn Balanag's story has its own book. Here is the church that grew out of it, in Ken's letters.

In February 1968, a few doors from the Engles, Evelyn finished the twelve lessons of *What the Bible Teaches* in two days. That week she came to Christ. *"It is one of the most thrilling experiences we have ever had in the service of the Lord,"* Ken wrote. *"The Lord did it all."* Her husband Fred followed. Their friends came to the house, and by October there was a Sunday class in the Engle living room.

Karen. Ken described those Sunday classes in October 1968:

> After a time of singing together as Mary Lou plays the piano we divide into classes. Mary Lou has the ladies. I have the men and Becky and Karen the children.
>
> Ken to Woodside, 17 October 1968

Karen was thirteen, and already teaching Filipino children their Bible lessons. When the classes became a Sunday School and Family Bible Hour in August 1969, she had her own class. When the little church held its first baptism, led by William MacDonald, Karen was baptized with Fred and Evelyn Balanag and the two sergeants from the Philippine Military Academy (Volume Three).

> Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it.
>
> Psalm 127:1, closing Ken's report of the new Sunday School, 1969

They averaged thirty-five, and one Sunday sixty-two came. By 1970 they had outgrown the living room and moved to a quonset hut on Navy Road, which the military men painted themselves.

> `It is often much easier to look back on the guidance of the Lord than to move forward into it.`
>
> Ken to Woodside, 17 October 1968

Kevin. *"The Baguio Battalion is encouraging,"* Ken wrote the Brigade office in June 1969. *"My boy, Kevin, is in the group here."*

From Ken's letters of 29 February, 17 October 1968 and June–October 1969.

Bibles for the Cadets

Up the road from Baguio is the Philippine Military Academy, *"the West Point of the Philippines."* Two of its sergeants, Ruperto Jaleco and Marcos Badilla, were among the first in the little church, and they brought soldiers with them.

The Bibles for the graduating cadets began, as Kevin remembers it, about 1968. The first presentation Ken describes in his letters was in March 1970, when he and officers of the Officers' Christian Union from Clark Field gave American Tract Society Bibles to sixty-five graduating cadets. It became a yearly gift. In January 1974 the graduating class was *"the largest class ever."*

> I was asked to present the Bibles. I spoke for possibly five minutes and then each man came forward to receive his Bible. There were 114 Bibles given to the men. … As we walked among the crowd afterwards a number of Bibles were in evidence. It almost seemed like we were attending a Bible conference to see people carrying the Bibles!
>
> Ken to Woodside, 24 January 1974

When the Engles left, Cyril Brooks carried it on. In 1978 he gave Bibles to 139 graduates.

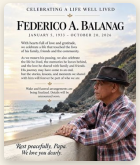
In 1972 Ken wrote to President Marcos himself, recalling the day in Baguio when he and Fred Balanag gave the President the Living books:

> I first saw the Philippines as I served with the Fifth Air Force during Liberation in 1944-45. I returned to the Philippines in 1951 not with a gun but that time with the "sword of the Spirit", the Bible.
>
> Ken to President Ferdinand Marcos, 13 March 1972

Fred Balanag presents the Living books to President Ferdinand Marcos at the Baguio airport, Sunday 12 May 1968. Ken bought them at the OMF bookshop, and Mary Lou wrote in them.

Kevin Engle's collection

From Ken's letters of 25 March 1970, 13 March 1972, 24 January 1974 and 5 April 1978.



Fred Balanag passed away on October 20, 2026.

Ten Thousand Miles Away

The family went home on furlough on 27 May 1970, planning on a year. It stretched to three, so the children could finish school.

But the radio work did not stop. With a studio recorder the ladies of Workers Together sent him, Ken recorded in the farmhouse and mailed the tapes to Manila.

> Though we are 10,000 miles away we speak daily by tape recording over there. We actually have more broadcast hours now than ever before.
>
> Ken, fall 1971

The Living series grew to *Living Psalms* and *Living Proverbs*, and a new verse-by-verse series began, *Moments of Meditation*. When President Marcos declared martial law on 21 September 1972 and closed the stations, *"the missionary station, DZAS, was the first non-government station to return to the air,"* still playing Ken's tapes. A man in India wrote twice about *Moments of Melody*.

> So little is much when God is in it!
>
> Ken to Countryside Bible Chapel, 20 March 1972

He found Kansas just as open. *"I had to go overseas to be able to come home and get into some of these places,"* he wrote. There were the Lions Club and Rotary, and KABI, where *Moments of Melody* became Abilene's morning program.

> God … hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will.
>
> Acts 22:14, Ken's verse for 1972

From Ken's letters of 1971–72.

A Kansas Furlough

Karen. In February 1972 Ken told the elders his family news. *"Karen is teaching a Sunday School class at the Chapel. She also played the guitar and accompanied the young people that sang at the last film showing."* She was sixteen, and the chapel was Grace and Truth, where Dad had grown up.

Kevin. The same letter:

> Kevin and Stanley attend a Boys Brigade near here. Kevin tells me he is to give devotions tonight. That will be a first for him.
>
> Ken to Woodside, 10 February 1972

That June, harvest:

> Harvest is underway here in Kansas. Kevin and I have been out helping with the farm work on my brother's wheat farm. Dad is 73 and still takes his turn on the combine. … It is my favorite time of the year. It is always a reminder of what the Lord Jesus said about looking on the fields that are white unto harvest.
>
> Ken to Woodside, 27 June 1972

> I will try to walk a blameless path, but how I need your help, especially in my own home, where I long to act as I should.
>
> Psalm 101:2 (Living Psalms), at the head of Ken's letter of March 1972

From Ken's letters of 10 February, March and 27 June 1972.

Back to the Mountain

The family left Kansas on 23 June 1973. A visa they had kept *"in force since 1957"* was renewed by a telephone call from Ken Brooks in Manila.

> We just look back and marvel at all the LORD has done since we left Kansas June 23rd.
>
> Ken to Woodside, 10 September 1973

The believers were meeting in a home, with the Family Bible Hour in the carport. In January 1974 they moved into the auditorium of St. Theresa's College, a closed Catholic school. One of its buildings had housed General Yamashita during the war. *"We are interested in a different kind of treasure,"* Ken wrote.

> If the Spirit of Him who raised Christ Jesus from the dead lives within you He will, by the same Spirit, bring to your whole being new strength and vitality.
>
> Romans 8:11 (Phillips), on the wall of Ken's studio, "a good verse for 1974"

That first November there was a baptism: two Brigade boys, a young couple from the neighborhood, an OMF missionary, and one of Ken's own sons.

From Ken's letters of 2 May, 10 September and 26 November 1973 and 24 January 1974.

Gospel Dimensions

This time the Engles had a recording studio at home, off Ken's office. He made the fifteen-minute programs there, and the five-minute ones, and something new: one-minute spots called **Moments to Remember**. In October 1973 FEBC in Manila asked for all of them. *"We have all agreed that they are very excellent."*

> I probably sounded casual when you told me that they liked Moment to Remember. Actually I was thrilled.
>
> Ken to Glynn and Lela Dean, FEBC, 26 October 1973

Kevin. In April 1974 Ken wrote his parents in Kansas:

> Kevin is helping in my studio…splicing tapes. He can help me quite a bit now. In fact did I tell you he made up his own 15 minute program for teens called GOSPEL DIMENSIONS. We don't know if they will put it on DZAS or not. They have a sample right now.
>
> Ken to his mother and dad, 23 April 1974

Kevin was sixteen. That December he was helping start a Bible class on the Brent School campus. Fifty years later the boy who spliced the tapes put his father's voice back on the air. KEEPM.org Radio plays Dad's programs around the clock (Volume Five).

> I let so many things crowd in and let that which I really enjoy the most…radio take a "back burner." I feel I have made a mistake in this and plan to do better in 1974.
>
> Ken to Glynn Dean, 18 February 1974

From Ken's letters of 16 and 26 October 1973, 3 December 1973, 18 February and 23 April 1974.

Short-Term Missionaries

Karen. In the summer of 1974, nineteen-year-old Karen and her sister came out from Emmaus Bible School for two months. Woodside sent them, and Ken called them *"short term missionaries from Woodside."* They landed at Manila International Airport on Monday, 24 June.

> Karen taught some of the girls at the Chapel guitar…also helped some of the SS teachers with flannelgraph. They enjoyed getting to Binangonan and San Juan and seeing so many old friends.
>
> Ken to Glynn and Lela Dean, 16 September 1974

Her sister typed for Ken and wrote scripts for *Moments to Remember*. Karen went to the ladies' Bible class with Mary Lou and worked with the children and the young people. Children's classes, music, teaching the teachers: it was the kind of work she would come back to do for many years on Romblon.

That summer the servicemen's conference met at John Hay Air Base, and VBS at the Navy Road chapel drew ninety children.

> Pray for us as we seek to reach the "brown gold"… the people of this area with the Gospel. It is work to mine either kind of gold.
>
> Ken to Woodside, September 1974

From Ken's letters of 27 June, 16 and 20 September 1974.

They Could Be on Their Own

> The name Baguio means "storm."
>
> Ken, November 1974, after a month of typhoons

The last Baguio winter was full. An Australian team from Gospel Literature Outreach came for four months, and there was a six-day Bible school with eight classes a day. *"The two married men that did not miss a session attended 48 classes."* A new home Bible class met among the Ibaloy, *"the original peoples of Baguio."*

In March 1975 Ken wrote something new:

> More and more we feel the believers here could be on their own. However, we would so much like to see them in their own building.
>
> Ken to Glynn and Lela Dean, 19 March 1975

On 1 May 1975 he wrote the elders at Woodside that it was time to go home, for Mary Lou's sake. They had prayed five years for land for a chapel.

> Interestingly it was 21 days later that the opportunity to get land for the Chapel came to us.
>
> Ken, looking back, 10 June 1977

The land was bought before they left. Building began on 15 September 1975, and on 14 December 1975 the **Christian Fellowship Gospel Chapel**, on Morning Glory Street, opened. Fred Balanag chaired its elders. *"This comes after seven years of the gospel going forth in that area,"* Ken wrote.

Fred Balanag passed away on October 20, 2026

> Overall though we believe that our absence has been good for the work. … It is not our work…it is the Lord's work. Just as our children need us at a certain time but then they need to be on their own…so it is with our children in the faith.
>
> Ken to the Woodside elders, 10 June 1977

From Ken's letters of 1974–77.

PART THREE

Still Sending

1975–1987 · Abilene, Kansas · and the Philippines by mail and by air

UPDATED 24 OCTOBER 2026

Our Missionary in the Pacific

Kevin. Kevin joined the Navy at Subic in May 1975, and soon he was back in the Philippines. Ken's letters from then on are full of him.

> Our oldest son, Kevin, is in the Far East in the Navy. He just spent some time back in the Philippines. He was able to visit Baguio three times. … We felt much like the apostle Paul in I Thessalonians three where he sent his son in the faith, Timothy, back to Thessalonica.
>
> Ken, summer 1976

> Our son, Kevin, is our representative out in that part of the world now. … As a boy he used to like to listen to tapes about Adoniram Judson. … I wrote him recently that now he is getting to be a missionary to that part of the world just like Judson. (More on Judson and Hudson Taylor →)
>
> Ken, 22 July 1976

> Our missionary in the Pacific area at this time is our son, Kevin.
>
> Ken to Colton Gospel Chapel, 30 October 1976

On the supply ship USS *White Plains*, Kevin and one other Christian ran the services and showed gospel films on the ship's closed-circuit television. The Baguio believers wrote the Engles how much his visits encouraged them, and *"how impressed they were with Kevin's maturity."*

In 1977 he took a shipmate named Rick, from the carrier *Midway*, up to Baguio. On the way back to the ship, past the bars, Rick spoke of how empty that life was, and Kevin asked him about his soul.

> The result was that before Rick got back on the ship he trusted the Lord as Savior. … It is the first one that Kevin has led to the Lord.
>
> Ken to Woodside, 2 March 1977

Rick finished *What the Bible Teaches* and sent a cassette recorder to the chapel in Baguio. By December 1977 Kevin had made *"probably his sixth visit to the Philippines since he has been in the Navy."*

From Ken's letters of 1976–77.

Fruit in Dallas

Kevin. In April 1985 the telephone rang in Abilene.

> We had a phone call this week from Kevin, who now lives in Dallas. He says it looks like he will soon have a Bible class with some Filipinos that he has contacted there. One of them even took the course "What the Bible Teaches" from our Bible School of the Air. This is exciting to learn that there continues to be fruit from those broadcasts and courses. Pray for Kevin as he teaches this class.
>
> Ken to Woodside, April 1985

A course his father had helped mail out of a room in Manila came back to his son in Texas thirty years later. That September Ken added that Kevin was teaching a Sunday School class at Wheatland Bible Chapel *"and is often given the opportunity to speak at the Family Bible Hour."*

The next summer Ken reported *"the big event of recent days … the wedding of Kevin our oldest son to Cheryl Ferris"*; her parents had been missionaries in Korea, and *"the two dads performed the ceremony."*

From Ken's letters of April and September 1985 and summer 1986.

Radio from the Wheat Fields

> `Their voice has gone out into all the earth.`
>
> Romans 10:18, at the head of Ken's prayer letter, December 1977

Ken recorded in the basement of Grace and Truth Gospel Chapel, ten miles out of town, because *"the nearest house is over a half mile away."*

- **The Emmaus Bible Hour.** Emmaus asked him to turn its correspondence courses into fifteen-minute programs. The first aired on KABI on Sunday, 14 January 1979. By 1981 there was a full year of them, built on *What the Bible Teaches*, *Guide to Christian Growth*, *Lessons for Christian Living* and *Summary of the Bible*. By 1986 there were two years, heard from Georgia to Nova Scotia. That year he airmailed the scripts to Rudy in Manila, who called them *"an answer to prayer."*
- **The Bible, read aloud.** For FEBC he read the whole New Testament, then the Psalms, Proverbs, Isaiah and more, with no comment. It aired Sunday mornings at 10:30 in Manila and in 1986 also from Iba, Zambales. *"There are no comments. But you know the promises that His word will not return unto Him void!"* (Isaiah 55:11)
- **At home.** A five-minute sermonette on KABI some 732 times, *"Outreach"* with Christian businessmen, and Bible lessons on cable Channel 8. In 1980 he chaired Abilene's public-access television.

In 1980 a fire at the Back to the Bible office in Manila destroyed about a hundred master tapes, *"tapes that we have used over and over and even made copies and sent to other stations."* He kept recording.

> Let us never be satisfied to be "receivers" but may we also be "transmitters."
>
> Ken to Woodside, 30 March 1976 (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

From Ken's letters of 1976–86.

Don't Worry If It's Hard to Pronounce

From Kansas Ken kept sending: Sunday School and VBS materials to Binangonan and Baguio, cassette libraries, and books. The Walterick publishers in Kansas City gave books free, and by 1983 about fifty Filipino workers and elders had complete sets of William MacDonald's Old Testament commentary. He helped pay for students at the short-term Bible school north of Manila, where former Brigade boys now taught.

He asked his supporters to pray for the two places by name.

> Don't worry if it's hard to pronounce the names of the places. The LORD will know what you are praying about!
>
> Ken to the Lees, Junction City, 25 February 1981

In 1985 he chose the photographs and wrote the captions for *Grace Triumphant*, the life of Cyril Brooks. Dad and Mom Brooks died in 1986, two months apart. *"They took us into their home and coached us in our early days there."* That February, during People Power, FEBC stayed on the air around the clock at full power.

> We can't help but wonder if some of our programs were not being beamed out when the transmitters were on full power in the crisis??
>
> Ken to Woodside, 13 March 1986

From Ken's letters of 1981–86.

Our Own Representative

Karen. In June 1985 Karen flew to Manila with the summer team of International Teams, which her cousin Mark Dyer led there. Ken wrote Woodside:

> We keep in touch by letter with these folks but now our own representative from the family will be there. We value your prayers for Karen.
>
> Ken to Woodside, June 1985

> It has been ten years now since we have been in the Philippines. Our son, Kevin, was back a couple of times to visit the believers when he was in the Navy. Now our daughter, Karen, is over there on a summer team … She wrote of tasting some of the tropical fruits that she had not had in years.
>
> Ken to Woodside, 11 July 1985

She helped in a clinic and at the Bible camp north of Manila, and her team went to all three of the places her parents had worked: San Juan, Binangonan and Baguio. She came home with gifts from Filipino friends. *"Binangonan especially seem to be going forward,"* Ken reported.

> For about 25 years we served as overseas missionaries … a number of our children are now interested in missions.
>
> Ken to Woodside, 18 September 1985

From Ken's letters of June, 11 July and 18 September 1985.

Only Eternity Will Show

About 1983 Woodside asked its missionaries a question: what difference did it make? Ken wrote about the boys' club. An older Filipino, not yet a believer, had asked him for one when Ken was still learning the language. The boys came to Christ and were trained, and then they trained others. Rudy, Pete, Reny, Lino and Eliseo became elders, broadcasters, translators and leaders.

> We have been involved in other kinds of work such as radio, youth work, Christ For Greater Manila, camp work etc, but this is the work that I have just described that seems to have left the greatest impression. Only eternity will show what really is important but thirty years later, that's the way it looks.
>
> Ken to Woodside, about 1983

He had said it another way in 1965:

> As missionaries some of us sowed some of the early seeds. But now is the time for it to have a full Filipino flavor.
>
> Ken to Rudy Ponce de Leon, 13 August 1965

And in 1987, writing about a Philippine ambassador who had been sent off to Washington as *"a missionary for Christ disguised as an ambassador"*:

> We all need to be missionaries, I feel is the bottom line.
>
> Ken to Woodside, 17 March 1987

From Ken's letters of 13 August 1965, about 1983 and 17 March 1987.

The Mountain, Again

> `Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.`
>
> Jeremiah 33:3, "a verse that keeps coming to mind in 1987"

Ken went home to the Lord on 5 November 2009. He never saw what came next.

Karen went back. She served in the Philippines from 1990 to 1995, and again from 2012, on the island of Romblon: children's work, the ministries of the local church, and a bake shop where she trained people in a skill and a way to earn a living. Her husband Patrick served beside her and helped translate some of William MacDonald's writing. When the Lord took Patrick home in 2026, Karen chose to keep on, and she is going back. The girl who taught the children in the living room on Malvar Street, and taught the girls at the chapel guitar in 1974, has served in the Philippines longer than any of Ken and Mary Lou's children.

Kevin went back too, the way his father had: by radio first. The boy who spliced tapes in the Baguio studio and made *Gospel Dimensions* now runs **KEEPM.org**, KEE Philippine Missions, with Dad's programs on the air day and night, and audio Bibles for Filipinos who memorize Scripture. In 2026 he retired to give himself to it, and he is going back to the Philippines alongside Karen. Dad called him *"our missionary in the Pacific"* when Kevin was a nineteen-year-old sailor. Fifty years later it is still true.

Some of us sowed the early seeds, Dad wrote. The seeds are still coming up, and two of the children who watched him sow them have gone back to the field.

In HIS joy.

From Ken's letter of February 1987 and Kevin's memories (October 2026).

Christian Servicemen's Centers

Ken Engle first saw the Philippines as a serviceman himself, a B-24 tail gunner in 1945. When he came back as a missionary in March 1951, some of the first people he served were American servicemen a long way from home.

Soon after he landed he met **Jesse Miller**. Miller had been an Army mechanic at Clark Field when the war began. He survived the Bataan Death March and years as a prisoner of war in Japan, went to Bible school, and came back to the Philippines as a missionary. In 1954 he and his wife Nettie founded the **Overseas Christian Servicemen's Centers** (today Cadence International): homes away from home where a soldier or sailor could find a meal, a Bible study and Christian friends.

Ken was there near the beginning. In his testimony, recorded at John Hay in 1973, he said he helped with the **GI Gospel Hour**, started a Friday-night Bible class for Navy men at **Sangley Point**, and spoke at the first servicemen's conference, held in the fall of 1951 with only a handful of men.

> I could not help recall the first of these conferences which was held in Manila in 1951 with only a handful of men. I had the privilege of speaking to those fellows.
>
> Ken to Woodside, 9 October 1967

Quiet Time, Prayer Time, Check Time

Manila Bay · 1951–1955

Ken's first trip to the sailors at Sangley Point was on 15 June 1951, with Howard Eppler. A former torpedo boat carried them across Manila Bay. They found the fellows, had malts and toasted cheese at the "Gedunk," then sang and prayed in the chapel and came home on a landing craft. "Got soaked between it and car. Arrived here about 11 P.M."

Before long it was a Friday-night Bible class. They went through Romans and John 4. Some nights the water was rough; some nights it was "the best sunset I've seen in a long time." And Ken kept coming back to the one habit he had preached since Moody: the Quiet Time, a few minutes alone with the Bible and the Lord every morning.

> Paul and Leland said they were keeping the Q.T. You can imagine how that thrilled me.
>
> Ken's journal, 15 September 1951

> The fellows have really been having good Q.T.'s, very encouraging.
>
> Ken's journal, 5 October 1951

He gave the men a talk on tract work and offered them a free subscription to a tract club, "best to encourage them while they are interested." Eight signed up.

That fall the servicemen wanted something more: a retreat, with Ken asked to speak on the Quiet Time. "What an opportunity that would be." On 18 October Ken, Jesse Miller, Ray Frame and two of the men worked out the program.

> The Lord wonderfully helped. Theme: "That They All May Be One."
>
> Ken's journal, 18 October 1951

As far as the family can tell, that was the first servicemen's conference, "with only a handful of men," which Ken remembered for the rest of his life.

He did not forget the Quiet Time either. In March 1955 Jesse Miller and Larry Tillman asked him to take four mornings at the servicemen's conference. "I count it a privilege." He made three sheets to help the men: a "Quiet Time" sheet, a "Prayer Time" sheet and a "Check Time" sheet. He got up at half past five to finish the stencils.

> Spoke at Serv. Conference at 8 A.M. on Q.T. Used sheets and assigned Joshua 1.
>
> Ken's journal, 27 May 1955

The next morning he helped the men work out a Quiet Time sheet of their own. On the third morning he spoke on Prayer Time, and on the fourth on Check Time. That Sunday night at Grace, Jesse Miller baptized five people from the servicemen's work.

Ken kept his own Quiet Time notebook that summer, with tabs: "Quiet Time, Prayer Time, Ideas, and Calendar." On the morning of the big Fourth of July conference at San Juan he wrote just three words before the day began: "Up 4:45. Q.T."

> *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night.*
>
> Joshua 1:8

Sources: Ken Engle's journal, 15 June – 18 October 1951; 28 March, 4 May, 25–30 May, 4 and 6 July 1955.

Sangley Point and Cavite

Sangley Point was the U.S. Navy station on the point of Cavite, across Manila Bay. Ken kept going down to the Navy men there for years. On 11 March 1966 his diary records a full day: a Tagalog lesson, a period at the language school, and then, at half past two, he and Marvin Graves drove to the American Embassy, caught a boat down to Sangley Point, and he spoke on the Quiet Time. He got home at a quarter past eleven that night.

Mary Lou and the children went too. In March 1960 the letter from the Woodside elders approving their furlough arrived just as the family was leaving with Ken for Cavite, for a meeting of Navy servicemen and their wives.

> `I brought it to the car on the run.`
>
> Ken to the Christians of Woodside Bible Chapel, 15 March 1960

In July 1962 he spoke at a servicemen's conference in Baguio. The next spring a serviceman in Japan heard his fifteen-minute radio program and wrote asking for lessons, for himself and for a friend.

Twice a Year in Baguio

When the family moved to Baguio in 1967, the servicemen came to them. Baguio was where men on rest and recreation from Viet Nam came up the mountain, and twice a year the servicemen's centers held a Bible conference there.

In October 1967 Ken spoke at the thirty-second, with over a hundred men from Okinawa, Viet Nam and the Philippine bases. A month later a group from an aircraft carrier just back from the war zone spent an evening in the Engle home, and a base chaplain telephoned to ask Ken to take charge of a three-day conference on the Air Base. In January 1968 Dad Brooks was a main speaker, and Ken spoke on "Missions in the Philippines." They set out a display of Emmaus courses and sold more than ninety, to men from Viet Nam, Okinawa, Taiwan, Guam and the Philippines.

In July 1968, at the thirty-fourth, the theme was "A Relevant God for a Restless Age." About 160 came. Ken taught Philippians every morning at eight, and four men professed faith in Christ. Read more: "The Four B's" → "Pray That This War Would Be Over" →

Men from the First Conference

The handful of men at that first conference in 1951 did not forget it. By October 1967 Ken could write that at least two of them were now running servicemen's centers themselves.

In the summer of 1971, home on furlough, Ken and Mary Lou went to a servicemen's conference in Colorado, with about 160 there, and met men they had known in the Philippines. One of them had been saved at the original Manila conference. He was now directing servicemen's centers in Panama and in the Philippines.

At the August 1969 conference Ken and Ken Brooks helped with the seminars. Men from all over Southeast Asia, Viet Nam included, bought the *What the Bible Teaches* charts to lead Bible studies on their own bases. And in February 1970 Mary Lou spoke to about sixty servicemen's wives on retreat at John Hay Air Base, where she had been organist at the base chapel.

John Hay, 1974

Back in Baguio in 1973, Ken took up the conferences again. In February 1974 about seventy-five came; he helped with a seminar and spoke at the closing breaking of bread. Then he gave about twenty-five servicemen and their wives a tour of Baguio, and Mary Lou served them cupcakes. In March the two of them held a conference for servicemen's wives.

That July the conference met at John Hay Air Base, with Dr. Gary Collins of Trinity as speaker and the theme "Made Whole in Christ." Ken led the Bible hour at eight each morning.

> The 45th semi-annual Servicemen's Bible conference has just finished here in Baguio. About 75 men and their wives attended, mostly from Clark Field and Subic Naval Base. The 'Kitty Hawk' aircraft carrier was also represented. Pray for these servicemen and their wives, also for those who work at servicemen's centers seeking to witness for Christ.
>
> Ken, in MISSIONS magazine, May–June 1974

In September more than a hundred came, from Clark, Subic and Navy ships; a chaplain from the carrier *Oriskany* wrote to thank them. Another conference opened 1975.

A Center at Fort Riley

Even in Kansas, Ken kept looking for servicemen. Fort Riley, the big Army post, is a few miles from Abilene, next to Junction City. On 28 November 1971 Mary Lou wrote in her diary:

> Dick Patty called - coming in Wednesday to look over Junction City for Service men' Center.
>
> Mary Lou, 28 November 1971

Two weeks later Ken asked the Woodside believers to pray about a servicemen's center at Fort Riley. He was working on it with a Junction City policeman and his wife, and they had surveyed the town with a representative of the Overseas Christian Servicemen's Centers.

The friendships lasted. In January 1983 two men from the servicemen's centers, Bob Hingham and Sid Henry, stopped in Abilene for breakfast, and Ken wrote of friends with ties to "Nettie and Jessie Miller."

The Gospel Hour at Clark Field

Kevin. In May 1975 Kevin joined the Navy at Subic. That September, after boot camp, Ken wrote that he was in fellowship at Laurel Chapel and helping at the **Servicemen's Center in San Diego**.

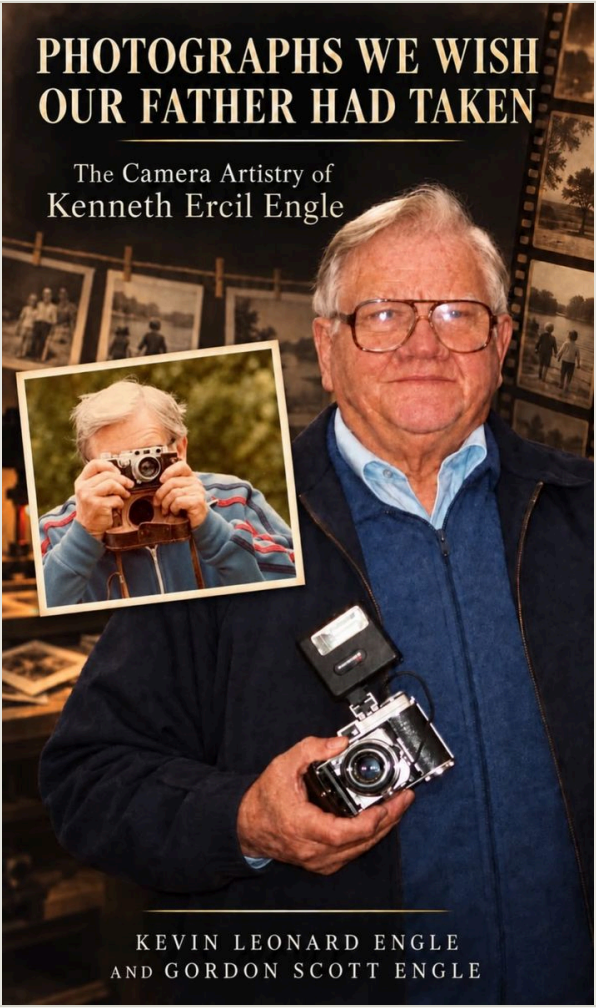
The next spring Kevin was back in the Philippines on the USS *White Plains*. On 8 May 1976 Ken wrote the Woodside believers that Kevin planned to go to the Gospel Hour at the **Christian Servicemen's Center at Clark Field**, and then up to Baguio. He likened it to Paul sending Timothy back to Thessalonica.

Twenty-five years after Ken spoke to a handful of men at the first conference, his son was one of the servicemen at the center. Read more: "Our Missionary in the Pacific" →

Photographs to be added.

From Ken's 1973 testimony tape; his letters of 1960–1983 and diary of 11 March 1966 (in Gordon's story "Thrilled"); the MISSIONS magazine prayer pages of 1974; Mary Lou's 1971 diary. On Jesse Miller, his obituary in the Denver Post, 2001.

Ken and His Cameras: Just for Fun



Photographs We Wish Our Father Had Taken: The Camera Artistry of Kenneth Ercil Engle, by Kevin Leonard Engle and Gordon Scott Engle.
Cover, Kevin Engle's collection

Dad was seldom without a camera. He left some thirty thousand photographs and slides. This book, still in progress, is just for fun.

In progress. More to be added later.

Milestones

1924	Born 9 November, on the farm south of Abilene, Kansas
1942	Wins first place in the national FFA public-speaking contest, Kansas City, with "Food, Our Weapon"
1943–45	Army Air Forces; B-24 tail gunner, Fifth Air Force, over the Philippines
1946–50	Moody Bible Institute; student announcer on WMBI
1950	Commended to the Lord's work by Austin Gospel Hall, Chicago, and Grace and Truth Gospel Chapel, Abilene; William MacDonald gives him a card of churches to visit
1951	17 March: ashore in Manila; Bible School of the Air; speaks at the first servicemen's conference
1952	2 February: first Brigade meeting, San Juan Elementary School
1953	26 April: marries Mary Lou Leonard, San Juan Gospel Hall
1955	Karen born in San Juan; first furlough

San Juan Gospel Hall, Manila, where Ken and Mary Lou were married on 26 April 1953. Kevin believes the man in white in the doorway, facing away, is Dad.

Kevin Engle's collection

Ken and Mary Lou, 1953

Ken and Mary Lou on their wedding day, 26 April 1953, at the Cyril Brooks compound in San Juan, Rizal, after the wedding at San Juan Gospel Hall. The whole photograph and the story of the day are in Volume Two, "Two Verses and Two Rings."

Kevin Engle's collection

1957	Back in Manila, 10 January; Kevin born in San Juan; Binangonan years begin
1958	Evangelistic meetings on Mindanao
1959	Teaches at FEBIAS; the Bible School of the Air passes 328,000 students
1960	Binangonan builds its chapel; furlough
1962	Tenth anniversary of the Brigade; Highland Bible Conference
1963	Billy Graham Manila crusade; eleven baptized at Binangonan; home for Mary Lou's health; Emmaus Bible School faculty, 9 September, invited by William MacDonald
1965	WMBI "Bread of Life" messages; back to Manila in December
1966	*Living Letters* on DZAS; gospel signboards; Taytay work begins 28 August
1967	First Tagalog signboard; Brigade's fifteenth anniversary; BSA's millionth student; "Give Us This Mountain," 3 June; Baguio; *Children's Bible Hour* on DZBS, 2 September; *Moments of Melody* begins 1 October

Milestones, continued

1968	Evelyn and Fred Balanag saved; home Bible classes; Karen teaching the children
1969	Sunday School and Family Bible Hour in the living room; William MacDonald leads the first baptism in Baguio; *Moments of Melody* on 17 stations
1970	Quonset hut on Navy Road; Bibles to 65 PMA cadets (the yearly gift began about 1968); furlough from 27 May
1970–73	Abilene; "more broadcast hours than ever before"
1972	Martial law; DZAS first back on the air
1973	Back to Baguio, June; *Moments to Remember*
1974	St. Theresa's College hall; Kevin's *Gospel Dimensions*; Karen a short-term missionary
1975	Short-term Bible school; leaves the field in June; Christian Fellowship Gospel Chapel opens 14 December
1976–77	Kevin, "our missionary in the Pacific," visits Baguio; leads Rick to the Lord
1978	Commended to the work in the homeland by Grace and Truth
1979	*Emmaus Bible Hour* first airs, 14 January
1980	Master tapes lost in the Back to the Bible fire, Manila
1985	Karen with International Teams in the Philippines; *Grace Triumphant*
1986	People Power; Emmaus scripts to Rudy
1987	"It was 36 years ago today…"
2009	Goes home to the Lord, 5 November, Abilene
2026	KEEPM.org Radio; Kevin and Karen back to the Philippines

Days Dad Remembered

He kept anniversaries the way other people keep birthdays. A few of them, in his words:

- *"It was twenty years ago this summer that I was commended to the work of the Lord."* (April 1970)
- *"It is sixteen years since I first came to the Philippines."* (June 1967)
- *"Speaking of history, it was just 14 years ago that we were in Baguio on our honeymoon at this very same time of the year."* (May 1967)
- *"We celebrated the 17th anniversary of the Bible School of the Air and the enrolling of the millionth student."* (May 1967)
- *"By the way, we celebrated our tenth year in Brigade work with a special meeting in March."* (1962)
- *"It was just a year ago today that our plane touched down at Manila International Air Port."* (December 1966)
- *"We have been engaged in the broadcasting ministry for the past sixteen years over DZAS."* (September 1967)
- *"Twenty Five years ago I went to the Philippines as a missionary. Thirty one years ago I was there for my country."* (1976)
- *"I recall your Chapel as being one of my stops just before I went to the Philippines as a missionary for the first time twenty-five years ago."* (October 1976)
- *"It is now about 32 years since I first said goodbye to you there and set sail for the Philippines."* (December 1982)
- *"It has been ten years now since we have been in the Philippines."* (July 1985)
- *"It was 36 years ago today that I began my missionary work in the Philippines."* (17 March 1987)

Dad's Verses

His verse for the year

- **1967** Isaiah 43:19, "Behold, I will do a new thing"
- **1970** Nehemiah 2:20, "arise and build"
- **1972** Acts 22:14, "chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will"
- **1974** Romans 8:11 (Phillips), on his studio wall
- **1979** Deuteronomy 32:3, "I will proclaim the name of the Lord"
- **1980** Psalm 96:3–4, "Tell of His glory among the nations"
- **1984** Psalm 105:1, "Make known His deeds among the peoples"
- **1985** Deuteronomy 33:27, "Underneath are the everlasting arms." (*"Come to think of it we need that verse every year."*)
- **1987** Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to me and I will answer you"

Verses at the head of his letters

Psalm 84:11 and Ruth 1:16 (the wedding verses, 1953) · Numbers 13:30 (1963) · Isaiah 50:4 (1963) · Isaiah 26:3 (1963) · Proverbs 1:33 (1964) · Isaiah 42:6 (1965) · I Corinthians 15:58 (1965) · Habakkuk 2:2 (1966) · Joshua 14:12 (1967) · Isaiah 66:2 (1967) · Job 34:32 (1967) · Philippians 4:4–7 · Ephesians 5:17 (1968) · II Corinthians 4:7 (1968) · Isaiah 40:29–31 (1969) · Psalm 127:1 (1969) · Colossians 1:28 (1969) · Psalm 32:8 (1970) · Jeremiah 10:23–24 (1970) · John 1:12–13 (1971) · Psalm 9:1 (1971) · Psalm 101:2 (1972) · James 5:16 (1972) · Psalm 139:3 (1972) · I Thessalonians 1:8 (1973, 1976) · Colossians 1:10 · Psalm 67:1–2 (1976) · Romans 10:18 (1977) · Acts 26:17–18 (1978) · Philippians 2:13 (1981)

Answers for Volume Five

Volume Five, on Dad's radio work, ended with open questions. The letters answer some of them.

- **When did Moments of Melody begin, and where?** On 1 October 1967, at 6 a.m., over DZBS in Baguio. It went on FEBC's DZFE in Manila that November.
- **Moments to Remember?** One-minute spots, begun in Baguio in late 1973 on a commercial station. In October 1973 FEBC asked for all of them, and in 1974 they also ran on DZBS.
- **The FFA award?** In 1942. Ken won the regional contest in Chicago on 10 August with a speech called "Food, Our Weapon," and then first place in the national contest at the FFA convention in Kansas City that October.
- **The Living series?** *Living Letters* began on DZAS in 1966, starting in First Corinthians. Then came *Living Gospels* (1968), *Living Prophecies* (1969–70), *Living Psalms* and *Living Proverbs* (1972), fifteen minutes each, most of them on Sunday mornings at 9:15.
- **Stations after 1975?** KABI Abilene, KSKG-FM Salina and KLJC Kansas City for *Moments of Melody*. The *Emmaus Bible Hour* was on KABI and on stations in Georgia, Florida, Wisconsin, Texas, Nova Scotia and elsewhere. DZAS, DZFE-FM, the Iba station and FEBC shortwave carried the Scripture readings.

From Ken's letters of 1967–86 and newspaper clippings of 1942.

Sources

Drawn from: a 509-page scan of Ken's typed letters and papers kept with them, 1942–1987 (file "KEE Letter 52-75"): his prayer letters, his letters to Woodside Bible Chapel and other assemblies, letters to him from Filipino co-workers, the Emmaus Bible School newsletter (autumn 1963), *Know Your Missionaries* (1977), *Christian Missions in Many Lands* (1977), the *Abilene Reflector-Chronicle* and a Kansas City newspaper (1942). Karen's and Kevin's present work from Kevin (October 2026). Dad's letters were scanned about twenty years ago by Kevin and Gordon.

Added 24 October 2026: Ken's journals for 1951 and 1955, as typed by Doug Engle, and his Bible School of the Air script of 10 February 1958.

Companion Books

Eight companion books stand beside the five volumes of the story.

Herald of Christ: The Story of Rudy Ponce de Leon
San Juan, Rizal · 1951–1996

Grace Triumphant
the autobiography of Cyril H. Brooks · © 1985 Walterick Publishers

"Mary Lou, Mary Lou": The Story of Evelyn and Fred Balanag
Baguio City · 1968–2010

Cheryl
Cheryl Lyn Engle · her life, her music, her own words

Karen, Patrick, and Romblon: "Carrying the Vision"
keepm.org · the Emmaus app · Moments to Remember · Karen and Patrick

Family Stories and Friends
Friends of the work · family stories · family reference

Kevin's Recollections
Kevin Engle · in his own words · Stewards Foundation · In Dad's Own Words

> **Faithful Men: A Library of Christian Classics**, from PlymouthBrethren.org: Brethren writers and missionary lives, searchable by author, Scripture and topic. Open the library ↗

The Table of Contents for the whole series →

Every link in the series, in one place →

What Comes Next

This is one of eight companion books to *Lord, Give Us This Mountain*. The Table of Contents lists every book in the series.

> Keep them for Jesus for eternity.
>
> the prayer behind KEE Philippine Missions

Edition of 11 October 2026 · through Gordon's "Prays for Us Daily" (10 Oct 2026), "ML + I," "Two Candles" and "The Wedding," Ken's War Years letters of 1943-45, the 1950-51 letters, "Herald of Christ" (the story of Rudy Ponce de Leon), "Mary Lou, Mary Lou," the story of Evelyn Balanag with her photographs, "The Landlord and the Projectionist," and a list of hyperlinks